

HOW WE DO IT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY FIRE DEPARTMENT 1999

- Facilities and Equipment

The Fire Department currently provides effective emergency response services from three fire stations located strategically throughout the Air Force Academy;

Station #1 – 6202 Pine Drive

Engine 6 = 1989 KME 1000 GPM Pumper
Brush 4 = 1992 Fire Bann

Station #2 – 4198 Academy Drive

Engine 9 = 1989 KME 1000 GPM Pumper
Engine 8 = 1989 KME 1000 GPM Pumper
Ladder 21 = 1994 KME
Chief 2 = 1996 Suburban
Brush 5 = 1992 Fire Bann

Station #3 – 9224 Airfield Drive

Crash 19 = 1986 Oshkosh ARFF Vehicle
Tender 15 = 1987 Kovatch 2000 gallon Tender
Rescue 3 = 1996 Pierce Heavy Rescue
Engine 7 = 1997 KME 1000 GPM 4x4 Pumper

Training Facility – 6100 West Monument Creek Road

4 story training tower
Classroom
Training Office
Multiple training devices

- **Staffing**

The Air Force Academy Fire Department currently staffs emergency response vehicles based on the 1996 Fire Protection Flight Manning Standard and Department of Defense Instruction 6055.6. They require each structural apparatus to be staffed with 4 people, and each aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle be staffed with 3 people. Emergency vehicles are staffed as follows:

Chief 2 - 1 Assistant Chief for Operations (Battalion Chief)
Engine Company 6 - 4 personnel
Engine 7 - 4 personnel
Engine Company 9 - 4 personnel
Crash 19 - 3 personnel
Ladder Company 21 - 4 personnel

The current minimum daily staffing is 18 personnel. All operations element members must be certified at the appropriate level through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress based upon their duty position, grade and skill level.

- **Dispatching Services**

The Air Force Academy Enhanced 911 (E-911) Dispatch Center currently dispatches fire department assets and when required, EMS and law enforcement assets. The dispatch center is supervised by a GS-08 civilian and operates under the Air Force Academy 510th CES/CEF budget. In fiscal year 1999, the Air Force Academy E-911 Dispatch Center dispatched **1270** calls. The E-911 Dispatch Center is capable of dispatching a one unit or multiple unit response based on information received from the reporting party, alarm computer, or an off-base reporting agency. Once the alarm has been dispatched, the dispatcher maintains contact with assigned units and coordinates needs as requested by the Incident Commander.

- **Response Categories**

Fire Department response is based upon the specific needs at each incident. Following are typical response titles and total number of apparatus involved.

- Building Alarm Activation, Smell of Smoke, Reported Fire:
 - Two engine companies
 - One ladder company
- Interior Gas Leaks:
 - One engine
 - One truck company
- Exterior Gas Leaks:
 - One engine company
- “Stuck” Elevators:
 - One truck company, or one engine company
- Others:
 - As directed by the Assistant Chief for Operations

- **Response Times**

A typical fire may initially double in size every 90 seconds. Many factors influence this growth rate, including the time of day, time until notification, fire department response time, and actual fire load of the building. Likewise, when a patient's heart has stopped, or he/she has stopped breathing, the fire department is working against the clock. Clinical death, which is considered reversible, begins at four minutes. Biological death, which is not reversible, begins only two minutes later. Clearly, there is a very small window of opportunity for both fire and medical response to make a difference.

Response time is defined as the time it takes the emergency response unit to arrive at the scene of the incident from the time of dispatch. This does not include the time from when the 911 call is received to the time it is dispatched. The Department of Defense sets the Academy Fire Department's response time goal at five minutes for high hazard structures, seven minutes for ordinary hazard facilities and 9 minutes for residential structures. Our response time average is 6 minutes and 41 seconds for all responses.

- **Call Volumes**

The Air Force Academy is a community that remains relatively constant each year because our population is controlled by the size of the units assigned to the installation. It is estimated that we will not experience any significant growth or decline in population or level of risk. In recent years, our department has also become more diverse in the types of services offered, including Technical Rescue, Hazardous Material Response, Emergency Medical Services, Dive Rescue, and Fire Control and Prevention.

- Number of Calls per Station (FY 1998/99)

Station 1

528

Station 2

728

Station 3

14

- Operating Budget

The 1999-2000 Operating Budget for the Fire Department is \$200,000. This figure does not include employee payroll.